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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/554,009	06/27/2000	HIDEKAZU SUZUKI	HYAE:099	6631

7590 08/26/2004

PARKHURST & WENDEL
1421 PRINCE STREET
SUITE 210
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2805

EXAMINER

CHEN, SHIN HON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2004

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/554,009

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI, HIDEKAZU

Examiner

Shin-Hon Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 20-33 have been examined.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 20-28 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitada U.S. Pat. No. 5606611 (hereinafter Kitada) in view of Matsuzaki et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6289314 (hereinafter Matsuzaki).

4. As per claim 20. Kitada discloses a data stream transmission and reception method comprising: receiving, in accordance with a reception contract, by plural receivers that have individual ID numbers and belong to a common group (Kitada: column 1 line 42 – column 2 line 14), a data stream transmitted from a transmitting end, wherein the plural receivers have a common group ID number (Kitada: column 1 line 42 – column 2 line 14); managing the reception contract in accordance with of the individual ID numbers or the group ID number (Kitada: column 1 lines 14-27: contract information based on individual receivers); and charging the plural receivers in the common group indicated by the group ID number a billing amount charged for one receiver even if a portion of a data stream is received by plural receivers in the common group (Kitada: column 1 line 47 – column 16: charging in accordance with contract conditions... individual information including contract information of each of the receiving

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stations...group information including contract information for each group). Kitada does not explicitly disclose billing amount charged for one receiver even if a portion of data stream is received by plural receivers in the common group. However, Matsuzaki discloses having plurality of terminals coupled to a receiving station in a household to receive data stream from transmitting stations and billing amount is charged to account that uses pay information based on individual terminal usage with calculated rate (Matsuzaki: column 3 line 41 – column 4 line 19). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Matsuzaki within the system of Kitada because it increases the efficiency of transmitting data stream to plurality of receivers based on groups.

Kitada as modified does not explicitly disclose billing amount charged for one receiver even if a portion of data stream is received by plural receivers in the common group. However, Saito discloses that general channels are not scrambled and can be viewed under a comprehensive contract (Saito: column 1 lines 54-65: comprehensive contract can be viewed by plurality of receivers without additional charge as long as the household/group subscribes to the basic service). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Saito within the combination of Kitada-Matsuzaki because it reduces redundant charge for viewing general programs.

5. As per claim 21. Kitada as modified discloses the data stream transmission and reception method of claim 20. Kitada as modified further discloses wherein the plural receivers belonging to the common group are charged the billing amount charged for one

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of the plural receivers indicated by the group ID number regardless of the number of the receivers that receive the portion of a data stream (Matsuzaki: column 13 lines 5-60; Kitada: (Kitada: column 1 line 47 – column 16: charging in accordance with contract conditions... individual information including contract information of each of the receiving stations...group information including contract information for each group).

6. As per claim 22, Kitada as modified discloses the data stream transmission and reception method of claim 20. Kitada as modified further discloses wherein each receiver receives a descriptor that indicates that either receiver-unit accounting or group-unit accounting is to be applied to the portion of a data stream (Kitada: column 1 line 14- column 2 line 14), and when the reception contract is based on the group-unit accounting, the plural receivers can receive the portion of a data stream at the charge for one receiver (Matsuzaki: column 3 line 1 – column 4 line 19; Saito: column 1 lines 54-65), and when the reception contract is based on the receiver-unit accounting, each of the plural receivers that is indicated by the individual ID number can receive the portion of a data stream at the billing amount for one receiver (Kitada: column 1 line 14- column 2 line 14).

7. As per claim 23, Kitada discloses a data stream transmission and reception method comprising: receiving, in accordance with a reception contract, by plural receivers that have individual ID numbers and belong to a common group and assigning individual receivers to groups (Kitada: column 1 line 14- column 2 line 14). Kitada does not explicitly disclose a data stream transmitted from a transmitting end, wherein the

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plural receivers have a common group ID number; notifying the transmitting end of the individual ID number stored in a first receiver among plural receivers belonging to the common group; notifying the transmitting end of the individual ID number of at least additional receiver that belongs to the common group of the first receiver, and information indicating that the additional receiver and the first receiver belong to the common group; assigning, by the transmitting end that has received the notification, the common group ID number to the first receiver and the additional receiver, wherein plural receivers belonging to the common group are charged a billing amount charged for one receiver even if a portion of a data stream is received with plural receivers in the common group. However, Matsuzaki discloses each receiving station contains a server which provides services to terminals within a household/group, and the server initially register with the transmitting end and assign unique identifier to each terminal (Matsuzaki: column 15 line 38 – column 16 line 59). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Matsuzaki within the system of Kitada because it is well known in the art to allow individual terminals to request pay programs separately.

Kitada as modified does not explicitly disclose plural receivers belonging to the common group are charged a billing amount charged for one receiver even if a portion of a data stream is received with plural receivers in the common group. However, Saito discloses that general channels are not scrambled and can be viewed under a comprehensive contract (Saito: column 1 lines 54-65: comprehensive contract can be viewed by plurality of receivers without additional charge as long as the household/group subscribes to the basic service). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill

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in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Saito within the combination of Kitada-Matsuzaki because it reduces redundant charge for viewing general programs.

8. As per claim 24, Kitada as modified discloses the data stream transmission and reception method of claim 23, wherein said assigning further comprises outputting a descriptor that indicates that either receiver-unit accounting or group-unit accounting is to be applied to the portion of a data stream (Kitada: column 1 line 14- column 2 line 14), and then the reception contract is based on the group-unit accounting, the plural receivers can receive the portion of a data stream at a billing amount charged for one receiver (Matsuzaki: column 3 line 1 – column 4 line 19; Saito: column 1 lines 54-65), and when the reception contract is based on the receiver-unit accounting, each of the plural receives can receive the portion of a data stream at the billing amount charged for one receiver (Kitada: column 1 line 14- column 2 line 14).

9. As per claim 25, Kitada as modified discloses the data stream transmission and reception method as described in claim 20 or 23. Kitada as modified further discloses wherein the reception contract is updated at regular time intervals (Saito: column 1 lines 54-65). It is well known in the art to update reception contract at regular time intervals.

10. As per claim 26, Kitada as modified discloses the data stream transmission and reception method of claim 20 or 23. Kitada as modified further discloses wherein said receiving comprises receiving a data stream comprising video, audio, and data which are

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transmitted by a digital broadcasting station (Kitada: column 1 lines 7-25); and the reception contract is for applying a predetermined accounting method to the portion of a data stream that is received for a predetermined period of time (Saito: column 1 lines 36-65).

11. As per claim 27, Kitada as modified discloses the data stream transmission and reception method of claim 20 or 23. Kitada as modified further discloses wherein content of the reception contract is multiplexed in a data stream to be transmitted to the receiver (Kitada: column 3 lines 20-50).

12. As per claim 28, Kitada as modified discloses the receiving apparatus of claim 20 or 23. Kitada as modified further discloses wherein the portion of a data stream comprises one of an event program and channel data (Saito: column 1 lines 28 – column 2 line 6, column 4 line 66 – column 5 line 14).

13. As per claim 30, Kitada discloses a data stream receiver comprising: a demultiplexing unit for extracting an individual ID number, a group ID number, and a descriptor from a data stream transmitted to the receiver (Kitada: column 3 lines 20-50, column 4 lines 3-54), wherein: the group ID number is common to plural receivers belonging to a common group and an individual ID number is stored in each of said plural receivers (Kitada: column 3 lines 20-50, column 4 lines 3-54), and the descriptor is for indicating either a first contract or a second contract, wherein the first contract is for charging a billing amount to each of the plural receivers indicated by the individual ID

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number (Kitada: column 1 line 66 – column 2 line 8: charging according to contract information... individual information including contract information of each of the receiving stations) and the second contract is for charging a billing amount for one receiver even if a portion of a data stream is received with plural receivers in the common group (Kitada: column 1 line 66 – column 2 line 14: charging according to contract information... group information including contract information of each group); a controlling unit for instructing the demultiplexing unit to extract key information for descrambling the portion of a data stream (Kitada: column 1 line 58 – column 2 line 14, column 4 lines 26-65); a descrambling unit for descrambling a data stream, wherein the controlling unit is for extracting key information that is common with all receivers of the common group when the descriptor shows that the second contract is to be applied to the portion of a data stream, and the descrambling unit is for descrambling the portion of a data stream by using the key information (Kitada: column 1 line 58 – column 2 line 14, column 4 lines 26-65).

Kitada does not explicitly disclose charging a billing amount for one receiver even if a portion of a data stream is received with plural receivers in a the common group. However, Matsuzaki discloses having a receiving station comprises of a server that provides information to terminals and the terminals can receive pay information (Matsuzaki: column 3 line 41 – column 4 line 19). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Matsuzaki within the system of Kitada because it increases the efficiency of transmitting data stream to plurality of receivers based on groups.

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Kitada as modified does not explicitly disclose billing amount charged for one receiver even if a portion of data stream is received by plural receivers in the common group. However, Saito discloses that general channels are not scrambled and can be viewed under a comprehensive contract (Saito: column 1 lines 54-65: comprehensive contract can be viewed by plurality of receivers without additional charge as long as the household/group subscribes to the basic service). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Saito within the combination of Kitada-Matsuzaki because it reduces redundant charge for viewing general programs.

14. As per claim 31, Kitada as modified discloses the receiving apparatus of claim 30. Kitada as modified further discloses wherein the data stream receiver is for receiving updated first and second contracts at regular time interval (Saito: column 1 lines 54-65). It is well known in the art to update reception contract at regular time intervals.

15. As per claim 32, Kitada as modified discloses the receiving apparatus of claim 30. Kitada as modified further discloses the portion of a data stream comprises one of an event program and channel data (Saito: column 1 lines 28 – column 2 line 6, column 4 line 66 – column 5 line 14).

16. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitada in view of Matsuzaki and further in view of Saito and further in view of Ellis et al. U.S. Pub. 20010010095 (hereinafter Ellis).

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17. As per claim 29 and 33, Kitada as modified discloses the receiving apparatus of claim 22 or 24, and 30 respectively. Kitada as modified does not explicitly disclose wherein the descriptor is in an event information table of service information in a data stream. However, Ellis discloses that limitation (Ellis: [0006]-[0009], [0053]). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Ellis within the combination of Kitada-Matsuzaki-Saito because it provides interactive television program guide that enhances the ability of a service provider to supply users with information on the programming available from service provider.

Response to Arguments

18. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 20-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ming et al. U.S. Pat. No. 5710815 discloses encoder apparatus and decoder apparatus for a television signal having embedded viewer access control data.

Tu et al. "On Key Distribution Management For Conditional Access System On Pay-TV System" discloses Pay TV which apply conditional access system on pay-per-view and pay-per-channel.

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20. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shin-Hon Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8654. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (703) 305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shin-Hon Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2131

SC


AYAZ SHEIKH
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